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CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town Hall,
CLACTON-ON-SEA.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942

To/
The Chairman and Members of the
Clacton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my twenty-second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District during 1942.

As in the case of previous reports during the War, it contains only a few essential statistics and, by the request of the Ministry of Health, figures for Local population are excluded, as are those supplied by the Registrar General which would enable local populations to be reconstructed.

The health of the District has remained good; for the second year in succession the incidence of Infectious Disease has been exceptionally low and there were no circumstances which seriously affected health of the inhabitants. More than half the population still remained evacuated, but there was a continuous return throughout the year of children and infants.

The Public Health Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, two Sanitary Inspectors, One Health Visitor, and two female Clerks (one temporary).

Immunisation against Diphtheria resulted, by the end of the year, in sixty per cent. of the school children, and about eighty per cent of children under five years of age, being completely protected against the disease. As infants are not immunised until they reach the age of about one year, the figure of eighty per cent is an underestimation of the number of, what might be called, immunisable infants actually treated.

General Statistics.

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	114	66.	48.
Illegitimate	10.	5.	5.
Birth rate per 1,000 of the population.	12.7		
Stillbirths	4.	2.	2.
Rate per 1,000 of the population	31.2		

General Statistics - continued.

Deaths.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Death rate per 1,000 of the population.	18.7		
Deaths.	183.	91.	92.

Puerperal Deaths.

(1) Puerperal Sepsis Nil.
(2) Other Puerperal Causes Nil.

Rate per 1,000 Births. -

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age -

All Infants per 1,000 live Births	64.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	70.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . .	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer	38.
Cancer Death rate	3.8
Deaths from Measles	--
Deaths from Whooping Cough	--
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years).	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death rate	.4
Other Tuberculosis Death rate	.1

Infant Mortality.

	1 Day:	1 Week:	1 Month:	3 Months:	6 Months:	9-12 Mts.
Prematurity	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	1	-
Digestive Disturbances	-	-	1	1	1	-
Epistaxis	-	1	-	-	-	-

Table of the causes of death.

Influenza	4
Tuberculosis	5
Cancer	38
Intra-cranial Vascular Diseases	21
Heart Disease	32
Other Circulatory Diseases	7
Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	3
Gastric Ulcer	1
Diarrhoea	1
Appendicitis	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1
Nephritis	2
Premature Birth	2
Other infant deaths	2
Suicide	1
Other Violent deaths	3
Other Causes.	9
	24
	183.

General statistics - continued.

Causes.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Death rate per 1,000 of the population.	12.7		
Deaths.	1,083.	91.	[illegible].

Transported lepers.

(1) Transported lepers Nil.
(2) Other transported cases Nil.

Rate per 1,000 Africans. -

Death rate of Africans under 1 year of age -

All Africans per 1,000 live births ... ... 6[illegible].
Negligible Africans per 1,000 negligible live births ... ... 7[illegible].
Negligible Africans per 1,000 negligible live births .. Nil.

Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2[illegible]
Cancer death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3[illegible]
Deaths from malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Deaths from pneumonia (lobar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Deaths from pneumonia (broncho-pneumonia)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	--
Pneumonia death rate (lobar and broncho-pneumonia)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Tuberculosis death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2[illegible]
										1[illegible]

Infant mortality.

1 year	1 month	1 week	1 day
Prematurity	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Diarrhoea	-	1	-

Table of five causes of death.

| | | | | | | | | | |

Ages at death from all causes.

Under 1 year	7
1 Year and under 2 years	1
2 Years " " 5 "	-
5 " " " 15 "	1
15 " " " 25 "	5
25 " " " 35 "	2
35 " " " 45 "	8
45 " " " 55 "	13
55 " " " 65 "	27
65 " " Upwards. "	117
Total -	184.

Infectious Disease, 1942.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	1	1	-
Pneumonia.	2	2	0
Erysipelas.	1	1	-
Chicken Pox.	1	-	-
Measles.	43	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	-	-

Isolation Hospital.

It was stated in the last year's Report that the admissions to the Isolation Hospital at Colchester during 1941, viz: 1 Scarlet Fever in a Soldier and two cases of Paratyphoid in two sisters, was by far the lowest for 50 years.

The year 1942 has easily beaten that remarkable record. Only one case, that of Erysipelas, was sent in; the Pneumonias and Puerperal Fever were admitted to General Hospitals.

Infectious Disease.

The Incidence was again extremely low as regards the major infections, but a fair number of the minor, viz: Measles and Whooping Cough, occurred.

The number of these notified by general practitioners does not, by any means, represent all that took place. In the section of Maternity and Child Welfare will be found the number discovered and visited by the Health Visitor; which will indicate that only in certain cases of these, so called, minor infectious diseases is a Doctor called in.

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Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

New Cases.					Deaths.			
Age.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
65 and Upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6.	5.	6.	1.	3.	1.	-	1.

Of the 18 cases notified during the Year, 10 had treatment in Sanatorium or Hospital, three died during the year and three left the District.

The total cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1942 was :-

A. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(1) Male - 10
(2) Female - 15

B. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(1) Male - 5
(2) Female - 8

Total - 38

No action was required under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Typhoid and Diphtheria continued throughout the year on the lines recommended by the Ministry.

The following table gives the numbers immunised during 1942 :-

Diphtheria.

Children under 5 years - - 180.
Children from 5 - 15 years - 147.

Total 327.

Age.	New cases.						Total.			
	Respiratory.			Non-respiratory.			Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
Periods.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
20	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and Upwards.										
	6.	5.	6.	1.			5.	1.		1.

Immunisation - continued.

Typhoid Fever.

Adults - - - -	7
Children under 5 years - - - -	3
Children from 5 - 15 Years - - -	21
Total -	31.

At the end of 1942 about 80% of children under 5 years, and 60% of children from 5 to 15 years had been immunised in Clacton.

Housing.

No new houses have been erected during the year.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The greater part of the new sewerage scheme has been in abeyance during the year, and the only work undertaken has been in respect of the sea outfalls in the Western drainage Scheme, and some lengths of Sewer in West Road and Butlins Camp.

Water Supply.

During the year, 198,839,000 gallons of water have been supplied by the Clacton Water Department. The water was obtained from the following sources :-

Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. -	141,327,000 Gallons
Great Bentley Pumping Station . -	57,512,000 Gallons.
Total -	198,839,000 Gallons.

The quantity represents a decrease of 7.02% on the output of the previous year and having regard to the increase in civilian population is a gratifying result of the campaign to economise in the use of water.

In peace time there is everything to be said for encouraging the ample use of domestic water but in a time of war part of the available supplies may be required for emergency uses.

Water is one war material about which we are apt to be careless. We use so much of it that we are inclined to think very little of it but in the National interest careless usage and waste must be stopped. The difficulty is to get the individual householders to feel that their small contributions to economy are as vital as those of larger consumers. Actually the Domestic consumer is cumulative and measureable over the Country in millions of tons per annum, both of water and fuel.

The water supplied in Clacton under normal conditions comes from sou ces some miles outside the Town - Lawford, Gt. Bentley and in case of damage to one or other of these sources or in other emergency, from the Council's well at St. Osyth.

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Water Supply - continued.

Having regard to the possibility of enemy invasion the Ministry of Health caused the preparations of an emergency scheme for water supply inside the town under invasion conditions. This scheme will only be put into operation in case of serious emergency when supplies from outside the district are unobtainable. In such circumstances water will be taken from the wells of the Boston Garden Co., Ness Creek Laundry and Fictlesea Hospital, and emergency rations of water will be carried in tanks to various parts of the town for distribution to the inhabitants.

Use will also be made of the water stored at the water works old reservoir, and Pelling pool.

Water supplies under these conditions will generally be artificially treated and made safe for use, and the consumers fetching water from official sources will be warned by notice at such source if it is necessary for the water to be boiled or sterilised.

Under emergency conditions all water taken from sources not under direct control of Council officers must be boiled or sterilised before being used for drinking or culinary purposes.

Throughout the whole of the past year the water supply in district was maintained at adequate pressure.

These supplies, from all sources were pure and wholesome, and of a high degree of bacterial purity.

Work of the Sanitary Department.

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the past year. :-

Inspection of dwellings.

(a) Number of Council Houses Inspected.	
" " " " Disinfested.	0
" " Other " Inspected.	2
" " " " Disinfested.	2
" " Private Houses disinfested by a Contractor (Hydrogen Cyanides).	
Number of Private Houses disinfested by a Private Contractor (Insecticides, etc.	
Total Houses disinfested - 2.	

Methods Employed.

(a) Stripping of dwellings, etc., where necessary, spraying with insecticides; fumigation with sulphur candles and other chemical fumigators. Steam disinfection of bedding.

(b) No notice has been required so far in respect of removal of tenants to Council houses.

(c) The work has been carried out by the Local Authority.

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Work of the Sanitary Department - continued.

Special Visits	2,034
Special Visits re Salvage.	1,280
Special Visits re Nuisance.	166
Letters to Owners re Nuisance.	28
Premises at which Nuisance abated - General.	18
Premises at which Nuisance abated - Housing.	4
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	65
Housing Inspections.	18
Re-Inspections:ordinary.	166
Re-Inspections: Housing.	
Preliminary Notices Served.	51
Statutory Notices Served.	1
Improvements Following Preliminary Notices.	53
Improvements Following Statutory Notices.	1
Improvements without Notice.	42
Factory Inspections.	50
Bakery Inspections.	22
Cinema Inspections.	10
Inspections re Civil Defence Quarters.	8
Piggeries Inspected.	57
Hairdressers Premises Inspected.	6
Inspections re Rats and Mice.	3
Air Raid Shelter Inspections.	54
	170.

Disinfections.

13 Rooms, Bedding, etc., disinfected.
20 Lots of Bedding Steam Disinfected.
4 Lots clothing disinfected.
19 C.W.B.A. Library Books Disinfected.
1 Lot Bedding Destroyed.
25 Blankets disinfected for Fire Service.

Milk and Dairies Orders.

13 Samples of Accredited Milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for Examination; five of which proved to be unsatisfactory, in as much as they gave positive B.Coli results.

9 Samples of Ordinary Milk were submitted, five of these also being unsatisfactory.

3 Samples of T.T. Milk were submitted for examination; of these 1 sample of T.T. Milk failed to comply with the prescribed conditions.

There has been little cause for complaint in connection with the production and distribution.

Water Analysis and Examination.

Samples taken :-

13 From Great Bentley Pumping Station.

All samples were found to be wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The following visits were made :-

Slaughter House	[illegible]
Butchers and Food Shops	147
Restaurants	17
re: Food Decontamination	37

Inspected :-

Carcases of Beef and Offal ...	158
Carcases of Pork and Offal ...	[illegible]
Carcases of Mutton and Offal ...	241
Carcases of Veal and Offal ...	20

Tubercular.

2 Beasts Lungs
2 Beasts Mesenteric Fats.
4 Beasts Livers.
4 Beasts Heads.

Tubercular.

3 Carcases of Beef and Offal.
1 Beasts Spleen.
1 Beasts Heart.
3 Pigs Heads.

Other Diseased Conditions.

7 Beasts Livers
1 Beasts Kidney
5 Beasts Lungs.

2 Carcases Pork
2 Sheeps Livers.
90 lbs. Beef Trimmings.

[illegible] lbs. Lucern.
[illegible] Meat Pies.
[illegible] lbs Cheese.
2 Cwt. Vaseline.
[illegible] lbs Margarine
21 Tins Coffee Mixture.
12 Pots Meat Paste
7 Pots Pickles.
1 Box Kipper.
[illegible] Herrings.
[illegible] (Bad) Oranges.

73 Tins Fruit.
50 " Vegetables.
21 " Corned Beef.
71 " Meat
30 " Fish
[illegible] " Milk
1 Jar Marmalade
1 Bottle Sauce.
4 lbs Flour.
15 - ½ pkts. Chocolate Figs.
19 Sausage Rolls.

Public Cleansing.

Owing to the Evacuation of the Civil Population the amount of Refuse collected and disposed of was considerably reduced. Refuse from Military Establishments and other billets is received at the Disposal Depot. Salvage work has been intensified with satisfactory results.

A total of 1,576 tons of refuse was collected at a net cost of approximately £1,509 including depreciation and loan charges.

Income from Trade Refuse was approximately £30.

Collection is by rear loading and mechanical vehicles. Disposal is by Incineration and controlled tipping.

1,034 tons were dealt with at a net cost of £484.

Income from the sale of Clinker and Salvaged materials was £738. Waste Paper - £808.

Port Sanitary Regulations.

No action was required during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The total number of Births notified during the year was 118 of which 58 were notified by Medical Practitioners and 60 by Midwives.

There are four Midwives on the Register, of whom two are employed by the Essex County Nursing Association, and they attended altogether 63 of the cases during the year.

Four still births were notified, the causes being given as prematurity and difficult labour.

Analysis of Midwifery and Maternity.

	Midwifery.	Maternity.	Total.
1. Domiciliary.			
(a) District Nursing Association.	41.	22.	63.
(b) Independant Midwives.	-	-	-
(c) Private Trained Nurses.	-	1.	1.
(d) Untrained Women.	-	1.	1.

2. Maternity Hospitals and Homes.

- continued overleaf -/

Maternity and Child Welfare - continued.

/ Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

	Midwifery.	Maternity.	Total.
(1) Ellisdene Nursing Home.	-	31	31
(2) St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester.	-	2	2
(3) Colchester Borough Maternity Home.	-	2	2
(4) Tendring Institution.	-	4	4
(5) Improvised Maternity Home.	-	8	8
(6) Black Notley Hospital.	-	2	2

All the above Homes and Hospitals, except Ellisdene, are outside the District.

Health Visiting.

The number of Visits paid by the Health Visitor to children under 5 years was 1,533. She also paid 15 visits as Infant Life Protection Visitor, to five homes.

Orthopaedics.

30 children received treatment for various Orthopaedic conditions during the year, and they made 111 attendances.

Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

67 Children under 5 years received treatment.

Dental Treatment.

25 Mothers and children received treatment.

Eye Clinics.

14 Children attended. Of 7 new cases 3 were provided with glasses.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There were 174 Expectant Mothers on the Register during the year, and they made 491 attendances at the Docotr's Clinics, and 286 attendances at the Ante-Natal Classes.

Infant Clinics.

These were held as usual on Thursdays throughout the year; the attendances of Children under 5 years being - 4,668.

Maternity homes and hospitals.

	Delivery.	Normal.	Abn.
(1) Hillsdale Nursing Home.	-	21	
(2) St. Mary's Hospital, Coldwater.	-	4	
(3) Coldwater Borough Maternity Home.	-	2	
(4) Tendring Institution.	-	4	
(5) Imperial Maternity Home.	-	0	
(6) Kinson Nursing Hospital.	-	2	

All the above homes and hospitals, except Hillsdale, are outside the District.

Health visiting.

The number of visits paid by the health-visitor to children under 5 years was 1,222. She also paid 19 visits as District Tuberculosis Visitor, to five houses.

Orthopaedic.

30 children received treatment for various orthopaedic conditions during the year, and they made 111 attendances.

Ultra violet ray treatment.

67 children under 5 years received treatment.

Dental treatment.

55 mothers and children received treatment.

Eye clinics.

14 children attended. 17 were seen 3 more previous with glasses.

Ante-natal clinics.

There were 1[illegible] mothers on the Register during the year, and they made 1[illegible] attendances at the mothers's clinics, and 200 attendances at the Ante-Natal Classes.

Infant clinics.

These were held as usual on Thursday afternoons. The number of children under 5 years being 4,000.

Maternity and Child Welfare - continued.

Food and Medicines.

Infant Foods, i.e, Cod Liver Oil, Virol, etc., were sold at cost price as in previous years.

Under the Food Scheme of the Ministry of Food the following have been distributed to 640 children during the year :-

National Dried Milk.

Free Distribution	131.
Cheap Rate	213.
Total -	344 Tins.

Black Currant Puree.

Free Distribution	1,009
Cheap Rate	131
Total -	1,140 Bottles.

Black Currant Juice.

Free Distribution	149
Cheap Rate	4
Total -	153 Bottles.

Orange Juice

Free Distribution	453
Cheap Rate	880
Total -	1,333. Bottles.

Cod Liver Oil.

Free Distribution	330
Cheap Rate	759
Total -	1,089 Bottles.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) W. A. MILNE.

Medical Officer of Health.